

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, please delete line 2.

Please insert on page 1, between lines 3 and 4, the following new paragraph:

-- RELATED APPLICATION

This application is the national stage of PCT/EP 2004/053326, filed December 8, 2004, designating the United States and claiming priority from European patent application no. 04001874.9, filed January 29, 2004, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION --

On page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 4 as follows:

-- The invention relates to a spring element and especially to a so-called layer spring which can be used by itself or as an ancillary spring in combination with an air spring in a railroad vehicle ~~in accordance to the preamble of claim 1.~~ --

On page 1, please delete line 8 and insert the following therefor:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --.

On page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 9 as follows:

-- A spring element for vehicle suspensions is disclosed in the

~~patent DE 35 09 923 C2~~ United States Patents 4,781,365

and 4,690,388. The essential features of this spring element are described in the first paragraphs of the disclosure.

On page 1, please delete line 19 and insert the following therefor:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

On page 1, please delete line 24.

On page 1, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 25 as follows:

-- The spring element of the invention ~~having the characteristic features of the main claim~~ affords the advantage with respect to the known springs that the ribs on the spring surface form small polygons, especially quadrilaterals (rhombi, rectangles, squares). When the spring element is pressed onto the support, air collects in these polygons. For this reason, the spring body slides on a plurality of air pillows. Therefore, there is only friction between the rubber ribs and the support surface. --

On page 2, please delete lines 24 to 26 and insert the following therefor:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will now be described with reference to the drawings wherein: --

On page 3, please delete line 5 and insert the following
therefor:

-- DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION --.